AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of detecting moisture or wetness comprising:

(i) placing a composite material, which contains at least one water-soluble decoloring agent and at least one methine dye, ~~whose color disappears upon reaction with the decoloring agent in a state that the decoloring agent and the dye are spatially isolated from each other~~ on an article that may be exposed to moisture or wetness wherein the dye and decoloring agent are initially spatially isolated from each other on the article and upon exposure to moisture or wetness the dye and/or the decoloring agent migrate towards each other on the article to react and decolor the dye;

(ii) exposing the article to moisture or wetness; and

(iii) observing a disappearance of color from the composite material indicating exposure to moisture or wetness.

2. (Currently Amended) A label for detecting moisture or wetness, comprising a support coated with at least one water-soluble decoloring agent and at least one methine dye, wherein the dye and decoloring agent are initially spatially isolated from each other on the support and upon exposure to moisture or wetness the dye and/or the decoloring agent migrate towards each other on the support to react and decolor the dye ~~whose color disappears upon~~

~~reaction with the decoloring agent in a state that the decoloring agent and the dye are spatialy isolated from each other~~.

3. (Currently Amended) An article having a moisture/wetness detecting function, which is fitted with a moisture- or water-detecting component comprising a support coated with at least one water-soluble decoloring agent and at least one methine dye wherein the dye and decoloring agent are initially spatially isolated from each other on the support and upon exposure to moisture or wetness the dye and/or the decoloring agent migrate towards each other on the support to react and decolor the dye ~~whose color disappears upon reaction with the decoloring agent in a state that the decoloring agent and the dye are spatially isolated from each other~~.

4. (Currently Amended) A material for detection of contact with a liquid, a liquid vapor or both, comprising on a support at least one decoloring agent and at least one colorant wherein the colorant and decoloring agent are initially spatially isolated from each other on the support and upon exposure to liquid, the liquid vapor or both, the colorant and/or the decoloring agent migrate towards each other on the support to react and decolor the colorant ~~whose color disappears upon reaction with the decoloring agent in a state that decoloring reaction is prevented from proceeding,~~

~~wherein the decoloring reaction between part or all of the colorant and the decoloring agent is caused upon contact with the liquid, the liquid vapor or both in which at least either the decoloring agent or the colorant is soluble to result in disappearance of the colorant's color and enables the detection of contacts with the liquid, the liquid vapor or both~~.

5. (Original) The detecting material according to claim 4, comprising a detecting layer comprising at least one layer comprising the decoloring agent and the colorant in a state that the decoloring agent and the colorant are spatially isolated from each other, wherein at least a part of the detecting layer loses or changes its color upon contact with a liquid, a liquid vapor or both in which at least either the decoloring agent or the colorant is soluble.

6. (Original) The detecting material according to claim 5, wherein the detecting layer comprises a decoloring agent layer containing the decoloring agent and a colorant layer containing the colorant.

7. (Original) The detecting material according to claim 6, wherein both decoloring agent layer and colorant layer further

comprise a binder capable of absorbing the liquid, the liquid vapor or both.

8. (Original) The detecting material according to claim 7, wherein the liquid is water and the binder is gelatin.

9. (Original) The detecting material according to claim 6, further comprising a member for leaving a space between the decoloring agent layer and the colorant layer in a state that the liquid, the liquid vapor or both is capable of permeating through the member.

10. (Original) The detecting material according to claim 6, further comprising an interlayer that is sandwiched between the decoloring agent layer and the colorant layer and has channels leading to both the decoloring agent layer and the colorant layer.

11. (Original) The detecting material according to claim 10, wherein the interlayer has a thickness of 0.1 to 100 $\mu$m.

12. (Original) The detecting material according to claim 5, further comprising underneath or inside the detecting layer a display plane bearing characters, drawings or both, and enabling

the characters, drawings or both to get visual recognition when a part or all of the detecting layer loses its color.

13. (Original) The detecting material according to claim 4, wherein the colorant is a methine dye or an azomethine dye.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method of detecting moisture or wetness comprising:

(i) placing a composite material, which contains at least one water-soluble decoloring agent and at least one methine dye, ~~whose color disappears upon reaction with the decoloring agent in a state that the decoloring agent and the dye are spatially isolated from each other~~ on an article that may be exposed to moisture or wetness wherein the dye and decoloring agent are initially spatially isolated from each other on the composite material and upon exposure to moisture or wetness the dye and/or the decoloring agent migrate towards each other on the composite material to react and decolor the dye;

(ii) exposing the article to moisture or wetness;

(iii) migration of the dye and/or the decoloring agent towards ~~on~~ each other on the composite material; and

(iv) observing a disappearance of color from the composite material indicating exposure to moisture or wetness.